

March 8, 2013

NWT Labour Force Activity - February 2013 -

Statistics Canada estimates that, in February 2013, out of 32,100 residents 15 years of age and older 21,900 persons were employed in the Northwest Territories, representing an employment rate of 68.2%. Nationally, Canada's employment rate stood at 61.2%.

Both the number of employed persons and the employment rate decreased for the fifth consecutive month after the summer peak of September 2012. Compared to January 2013, 200 fewer persons were employed and the employment rate decreased by 0.6 percentage points. However, the unemployment rate also decreased since there were fewer people looking for work.

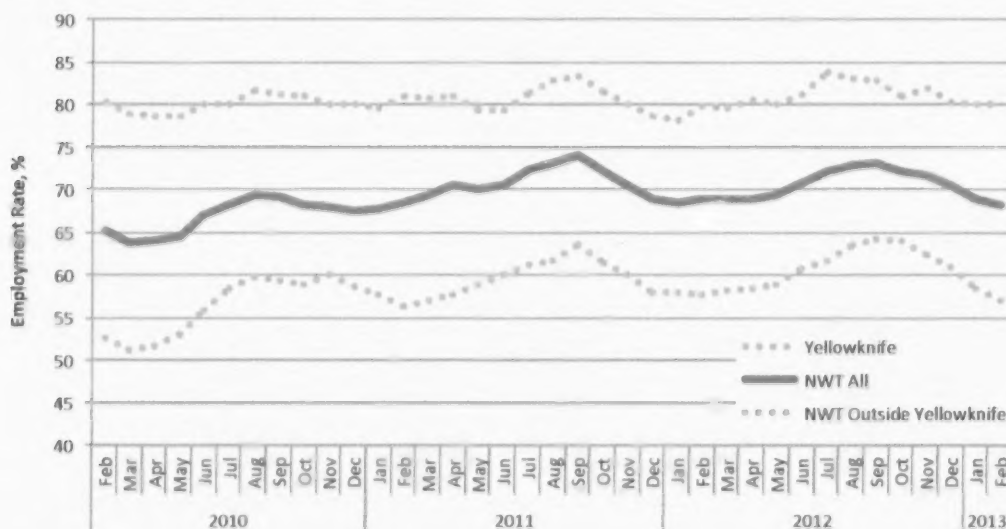
In the NWT, the month of February usually coincides with the bottom of the seasonal employment cycle, as shown in Figure 1. Geographically, the employment for the communities outside Yellowknife is more sensitive to the seasonal variation. The upward employment trend normally appears with the spring thaw.

NWT Labour Force Activity

Pop. 15 & Over: 32,100 persons



Figure 1 Employment Rates, Northwest Territories, 2010-2013



From the previous month, employment rates decreased for most of the key characteristics, with exceptions for females, which remained the same, and the Yellowknife area, which increased by 0.1 percentage points. In contrast, the employment rate for communities outside Yellowknife decreased by 1.4 percentage points. The aboriginal employment rate fell by 1.7 percentage points to 51.1%, while the youth employment rate (ages 15-24 years) fell by 1.5 percentage points to 41.8%.

Table 1 *Employment Rates by Key Characteristics
Northwest Territories*

	Feb-13	Jan-13	Dec-12	Nov-12	Oct-12	Sep-12
Northwest Territories	68.2	68.8	70.4	71.7	72.0	73.1
15-24 Yrs.	41.8	43.3	44.8	47.8	52.2	55.2
25 Yrs. & Over	74.9	75.6	77.2	78.0	77.2	77.5
Males	69.3	70.5	73.3	73.3	73.3	72.7
Females	67.1	67.1	67.7	70.3	71.0	73.5
Aboriginal	51.1	52.8	54.2	56.7	57.1	59.2
Non-Aboriginal	81.8	82.1	83.2	83.3	83.9	83.7
Yellowknife	80.1	80.0	80.3	81.9	80.9	82.9
Other	57.0	58.4	61.0	62.4	63.9	64.3

From January to February 2013, total employment decreased by 200 persons. Employment in service-producing industries decreased by 300, while it did not change in goods-producing industries. Full-time employment decreased by 200 persons. Over the past 12-month period, total employment decreased by 200 persons in the Northwest Territories. Self-employment decreased by 500 persons, the public sector decreased by 400 persons, while private-sector employment increased by 800 persons.

Table 2 *Monthly and Yearly Change in Employment by Selected Characteristics
Northwest Territories, February 2013*

	Feb-13	Jan-13	Feb-12	Jan-13 to Feb-13	Feb-12 to Feb-13
				Change (persons)	
Total Employment	21,900	22,100	22,100	(200)	(200)
Full-time	19,700	19,900	19,400	(200)	300
Part-time	2,200	2,200	2,700	-	(500)
Employees	20,600	20,700	20,300	(100)	300
Public	10,100	10,200	10,500	(100)	(400)
Private	10,600	10,500	9,800	100	800
Self-employment	1,300	1,400	1,800	(100)	(500)
Goods Producing	3,900	3,900	3,600	-	300
Service Producing	18,000	18,300	18,500	(300)	(500)

The following table presents historical labour force activity in the Northwest Territories.

Table 3 *Labour Force Activity
Northwest Territories*

	Population 15 & Over	Labour Force	Employed	Unem- ployed	Not in the Labour Force	Partic- ipation Rate	Unemp- loyment Rate	Employ- ment Rate
Feb-13	32,100	23,500	21,900	1,600	8,600	73.2	6.8	68.2
Jan-13	32,100	23,900	22,100	1,700	8,200	74.5	7.1	68.8
Dec-12	32,100	24,400	22,600	1,800	7,700	76.0	7.4	70.4
Nov-12	32,100	24,700	23,000	1,700	7,400	76.9	6.9	71.7
Oct-12	32,100	25,000	23,100	1,900	7,000	77.9	7.6	72.0
Sep-12	32,000	25,600	23,400	2,200	6,500	80.0	8.6	73.1
Aug-12	32,000	25,700	23,300	2,300	6,300	80.3	8.9	72.8
Jul-12	32,000	25,400	23,100	2,300	6,600	79.4	9.1	72.2
Jun-12	32,000	24,700	22,600	2,100	7,400	77.2	8.5	70.6
May-12	32,100	24,300	22,200	2,100	7,700	75.7	8.6	69.2
Apr-12	32,100	24,300	22,100	2,200	7,700	75.7	9.1	68.8
Mar-12	32,100	24,200	22,100	2,100	7,900	75.4	8.7	68.8
Previous Years:								
Feb-12	32,100	24,200	22,100	2,100	7,900	75.4	8.7	68.8
Feb-11	32,200	23,800	22,000	1,800	8,300	73.9	7.6	68.3
Feb-10	32,200	22,400	21,000	1,400	9,800	69.6	6.3	65.2
Feb-09	32,100	22,700	22,000	700	9,400	70.7	3.1	68.5
Feb-08	32,000	24,100	22,600	1,500	7,900	75.3	6.2	70.6
Feb-07	31,500	24,600	23,600	1,000	6,900	78.1	4.1	74.9
Feb-06	31,200	24,000	22,800	1,200	7,200	76.9	5.0	73.1
Feb-05	31,200	24,300	22,700	1,600	6,900	77.9	6.6	72.8
Feb-04	30,800	22,800	21,500	1,300	8,000	74.0	5.7	69.8
Feb-03	29,700	22,100	20,900	1,300	7,600	74.4	5.9	70.4

Information on the territorial labour market is a result of the extension of Statistics Canada's national labour force survey (LFS) to the Northwest Territories. Data presented for the Northwest Territories is based on three-month moving averages, with survey counts rounded to the nearest 100 persons.

For additional information on the monthly release of labour force survey results for the Northwest Territories, visit the NWT Bureau of Statistics website at <http://www.statsnwt.ca> or call (867) 873-7147.

Next Release: April 5, 2013